to deliberate upon following critical issues pertaining to higher education Sector:-

(i) Committee on autonomy of higher education institutions.

(ii) Committee on financing of higher and technical education.

Funds for Balika Samrid hi Yojana in Chhattisgarh

†1982. SHRI MATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allotted and the amount remained to be allotted to Chhattisgarh since its creation for the programme being operated under the "Balika Samridhi Yoajan";

(b) whether Government are aware that the State didn't receive any amount during the year 2003-04 under the said scheme; and

(c) by when the said amount is likely to be released by Government and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Rs. 200.00 lakhs were released to Chhattisgarh during the year 2001-2002 under Balika Samridhi Yojana. The State Government has spent Rs. 493.99 lakhs till May 2004. The balance of Rs. 293.99 lakhs is due for release.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The State is likely to receive remaining grant after revised etimates are approved.

Mid-day meal schemes and fire safety norms

1983. DR. NARAYAN SINGH MANAKLAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Mid-day Meal Scheme is universally being implemented in all the schools;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted at any level regarding the kitchen facility in the schools to prepare food;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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(c) the authorities responsible for overseeing the basic fire safety standards for the school kitchens; and

(d) whether Government contemplate to review the fire safety measures in the school kitchens, especially in the light of the tragedy at Kumbakonam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF **HUMAN** RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) As per available information, the National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (commonly referred to as the Mid-day Meal Scheme) is being implemented in all eligible primary schools, as per guidelines, except in Jammu and Kashmir.

(b) No such survey has been conducted or commissioned by the Department of Elementary Education & Literacy.

(c) School Managements.

(d) After the Kumbakonam tragedy, Central Government has requested States to take all possible steps for ensuring safety and well being of school children, including adequate arrangements for fire safety, regular inspections and monitoring.

Retirement benefits for school teachers

1984. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the retirement benefits including gratuity given to the Government school teachers compare unfavourably with those made available to other Central Government employees; and

(b) if so, to what extent and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF **HUMAN** RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) School teachers of Kendriya Vidyalaya get the retirement benefit including gratuity under the provisions of CSS Pension Rules 1972 as applicable to Central Government employee; the retirement benefit of pension and gratuity are not available to the school teachers of Navodaya Vidyalayas. Other retirement benefits like CPF, leave encashment, payment of gratuity under Payment of Gratuity Act 1972 given to school